

DEA Criminal Investigator (Special Agent) Basic Qualifications

Applicants must meet the basic qualification standards established by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for the 1811 series OR as an exception to the OPM Qualifications Standards established for the 1811 series, possess unique skills and/or highly desirable specialized experience and education. Eligibility based on such unique skills/experience is an authorized exception to the OPM Qualifications Standard.

OPM QUALIFICATIONS STANDARDS FOR 1811 SERIES

GRADE 07: To qualify at the GL-07 level, you must have one year of experience assisting in **narcotics/drug related** investigations of alleged or suspected violations of the law; participating in surveillance and undercover activities or operations, and taking part in apprehending, arresting persons suspected of violations; and assisting in the organization of evidence for presentation to prosecution officials, **OR** you may substitute education for specialized experience if you have completed one full academic year of graduate level education or law school OR successfully meet the requirements of the Superior Academic Achievement provisions. Superior Academic Achievement is based on (1) class standing, (2) a grade-point average (GPA) of 2.95 or higher (based on 4 years of education or in the final two years of curriculum); or a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher (based on required courses completed in the major field or the required courses in the major field completed in the final two years of curriculum), or (3) election to membership in a national scholastic society. Equivalent combinations of successfully completed education and experience listed above may be used to meet the experience requirements.

GRADE 09: To qualify at the GL-09 level, you must have one year of experience carrying out limited **narcotics/drug related** investigations of alleged or suspected violations of the law; participating in surveillance and undercover activities or operations, raids and/or seizures; taking part in apprehending, arresting, interviewing, and interrogating persons suspected of violations of the law; and organizing evidence for presentation to prosecution officials, **OR** you may substitute education for specialized experience if you have completed two (2) full academic years of graduate level education or completed all requirements for a master's or equivalent graduate degree, or completion of all requirements for an LL.B. or J.D. degree. Such education must demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to do the work. Equivalent combinations of successfully completed education and experience may be used to meet the experience requirements. Only graduate education in excess of the amount required for the GL-07 level may be used to qualify applicants at the grade GL-09 level.

UNIQUE SKILLS/EXPERIENCE (AUTHORIZED EXCEPTION TO OPM QUALIFICATIONS STANDARD) GRADE 07

FOREIGN LANGUAGE: To qualify, you must have a foreign language fluency that will enable you to facilitate undercover introductions, informant recruitment, possible cultural awareness of performance limitations or attitudes, and code analysis of high level, foreign language speaking traffickers. The language expertise must be qualified at a three plus rating as established by Foreign Service Institute standards. Fluency may result from formal training, cultural background or job related requirements which require the ability to use these languages. (Note: Applicants may be subjected to an oral interview to determine foreign language proficiency). In addition, you must possess a Bachelor's degree or higher (no minimum GPA is required) which includes coursework in a foreign language, composition, literature, writing, communications, and/or humanities/cultural studies.

PILOT / MARITIME: To qualify, you must have knowledge of aerial/maritime operational procedures, guidelines and regulations concerning international and domestic flights or seagoing voyages and the ability to apply this know-how to locate illegal sources or production, transit points and methods of introductions into the continental United States. Ability to analyze seized navigational charts and maps and project logical itineraries of clandestine criminal operations which will lead to seizures during ongoing criminal activity or enhance prosecutions in conspiracy investigations. Multi-engine, fixed wing instrument rated, as well as rotary wing pilots and expert navigational seamen with three or more years of experience with aviation or shipping industry that involved state of the art equipment and required planning for extensive domestic and international travel, including logistical support, loading characteristics, climatic analysis, and equipment operation limitations. Such expertise may be used to detect and penetrate criminal activity associate with air and sea smuggling. Candidates could be airline, military or private pilots; those with maritime experience would include first mates, navigational officers, Maritime Academy graduates and ships' captains. You must possess a Bachelor's degree or higher (no minimum GPA is required) in any field. Formal training/education and a current license as a pilot or maritime is required.

ACCOUNTING / AUDITING: To qualify, you must have knowledge of accounting procedures, auditing procedures or financial analysis procedures, and the ability to apply this knowledge to trace assets, identify owners, determine intent of financial transactions and link them to criminal activity to support asset seizures. Three or more years of professional accounting or auditing experience (public or private), including the audit of company or governmental books and records (manual or automated). This is required in order to support or discover attempts to alter financial or similar records and to detect diversion of funds, equipment, etc. in support of criminal or civil action. Experience as an internal auditor, bank examiner, corporate auditor, CPA, Revenue Agent, corporate financial consultant, international banker, or similar experience is needed. Education should consist of a Bachelor's degree or higher (no minimum GPA is required) and include at least 24 semester hours in accounting or auditing.

TECHNICAL / MECHANICAL: To qualify, you must have knowledge of communications networks from computers and audio and video transmission systems (both wireless and via cable). Ability to apply this knowledge to trace electronic transfers of monetary instruments, install Title III electronic intercepts, install video surveillance systems, and to identify and monitor various methods of electronic communications utilized by the criminal element. Ability to provide communications security (COMSEC) for investigative activity and to support ongoing investigations and corroborate agent testimony. Three or more years of substantial on the job indoctrination and "hands on" experience in electronic theory and application, with emphasis on communications associated with audio and video systems (wireless and cable). Listening devices, video equipment (both visible and invisible spectra), teletype and radioteletype (RTTT), and computers and associated interfacing equipment. You must possess a Bachelor's degree or higher (no minimum GPA is required) and include coursework in information systems/technology, telecommunications, or electrical/mechanical engineering.

MILITARY: To qualify, you must have knowledge of a paramilitary organization which includes annual performance standards, group interaction, and command orientation, and requires the ability to both project authority and carry out directives and fulfill missions, with sometimes limited logistical support. Ability to quickly analyze technical situations requiring immediate decisions and ability to take action which could result in success or failure of an investigation and reduce danger to personnel. Three or more years of

experience in leadership, travel, and diverse geographical assignments and familiarity with the control mechanisms necessary to operate in a dangerous environment. Conditioned by past experience, such a candidate will function under duress and confront stressful situations with positive results. An officer that has received training and participated in court-martials, conducted investigations on their behalf and administered corresponding disciplinary actions would be ideal. Furthermore, a candidate who has successfully completed assignments requiring security awareness, the delegation of authority and the ability to carry out orders, accomplish goals, achieve objectives, plan operations, evaluate results, and take corrective action would be well-equipped to compete for a Special Agent position. You must possess a Bachelor's degree or higher (no minimum GPA is required) and include coursework in military or political science, government, management/leadership, and/or communications.

(Required) All academic degrees and coursework must be completed at a college or university that has obtained accreditation or pre-accreditation status from an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. For a list of schools that meet this criteria, see www.ed.gov.